

This publication is provided jointly from the WIA Local Workforce Investment Boards representing Maricopa County and the City of Phoenix.
 Previous editions of *Items of Note* are available online [here](#).

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FACTS & FIGURES

WIA helps our community by welcoming 2012 with more than a dozen local recruitments calendared!

NEWS & MEDIA

AZ workers tell their stories *DOL News Brief (12/22/11)*



**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

Good jobs for everyone.

Excerpt: "During a roundtable meeting at Arizona State University's Cronkite School of Journalism in Phoenix last Friday, local workers -- ranging from those receiving unemployment insurance benefits to recently hired individuals -- told [U.S. Department of Labor] Secretary Solis their stories about how Labor Department-funded programs helped them. The workers discussed their experiences finding jobs as well as the importance of Congress extending unemployment benefits and the payroll tax cuts. Local officials and representatives from employment and training organizations in Phoenix also joined the conversation."

Paul Lokey, a MWC customer, was at the table to share his experience trying to find sustainable employment in today's economy. The local workforce areas were well represented at the event: MWC Board members Marie Sullivan and Karen Thorne as well as MWC and PWC staff were at the table for the discussion. Sullivan facilitated the discussion and Thorne accompanied a customer from the Phoenix Indian Center.



Left to right: Honorable Hilda Solis, Marie Sullivan, Paul Lokey



Left to right: Patrick Burkhardt, Honorable Hilda Solis, Karen Thorne, Marie Sullivan

Submitted by:

Greta Suda, Chair, MWC Advocacy Task Force
 Director of Talent
 Alliance Residential Company

On behalf of: MWC Board Members

Tina Huff, Executive Director
 Human Resources, Pro's Ranch Markets

Rodney Pack, Program Manager
 Arizona Pipe Trades Joint Apprenticeship

Benjamin Serio, Human Resources Manager
 Amazon.com

Shellie Frey, Human Resources Manager
 Lowe's

Patrick Burkhardt, Assistant Director
 Maricopa County Human Services Department
 Workforce Development Division

On Behalf of PWC Board Members

Brad Taft, Owner
 Taft Resource Group

Joel Millman, Coordinator
 AZDES, Mature Worker Program

Traci Gruenberger, Vice President for
 Development and Operations
 Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest

Cynthia Spell-Tweh, Deputy Director
 Community and Economic Development
 Department, City of Phoenix

Collaboratively providing workforce solutions to businesses and individuals throughout Maricopa County.

Career Connectors gives job seekers networking help By Jahna Berry, *The Arizona Republic* (12/27/11)

Excerpt: "The group is also often recommended by some government workforce agencies. People who are looking for work should consider weaving job-seeking groups into their overall strategy, said Sherene McLemore a workforce project manager at the city-run Phoenix Workforce Connection. "People can get training or resume advice from a variety of sources, but local networking groups help provide emotional support and help people build face-to-face relationships that can lead to jobs, McLemore said."

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

ASU student gains work experience with project featuring MWC

'90csimpson' prepared a video news item featuring MWC, *YouTube* (12/8/11)

Online video description — This program gives employers and those unemployed an easier way to contact one another. It also provides people with resources to help prepare for entering today's competitive workforce. Those interested in learning more about the program can visit their website at maricopaworkforceconnection.com.

PARTNER ITEMS**Arizona Youth participate in national BLM training pilot program**

Phoenix District Highlights (10/29/11) *not available online* — Excerpt: Arizona leads the nation in a pilot program using funding from the Department of Labor's Workforce Investment Act and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to train and hire youth, ages 18-24 years, and put them to work building or repairing trails and campgrounds, fighting wild land fires and other jobs on National Monuments and public lands surrounding Phoenix.

"Our goal is to enhance management of Arizona's public lands while exposing urban youth to exciting opportunities in federal careers and mentoring them through pathways to federal jobs and college programs—even earning college credits at no cost to them," explains Steve Cohn with the BLM.

The BLM partnered with the Student Conservation Association (SCA), the national leader in youth service and stewardship, to train youth who, after a paid 12-16 week course, will receive a Conservation and Resource Management Field Certification.

"Youth unemployment today is twice as high as the nation's overall jobless rate," stated SCA President Dale Penny. "This training program not only provides participants with the skills and experience needed to launch productive careers, it helps BLM and other resource management agencies develop a younger and more diverse workforce."

The Department of Labor's Workforce Investment Act channels funds through the City of Phoenix and Maricopa County to recruit youth through Arizona Call-A-Teen Youth Resources (ACYR). Teens with the Certification who enroll in community college or universities become eligible for the federal government's Student Temporary Employee Program.

**Gilbert Career Center**

735 N. Gilbert Road, Ste. 134
Gilbert, AZ 85234
Tel: 602/372-9700
TTY: 602/372-9792

West Valley Career Center

1840 N. 95th Ave., Ste. 160
Phoenix, AZ 85037
Tel: 602/372-4200
TTY: 602/372-4261

www.maricopaworkforceconnection.com

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES**Schedule a visit of a local One-Stop**

Please call to schedule a tour of a MWC or PWC Career Center to engage with local job seekers and businesses, or join a local workforce advisory board to hear first-hand about the challenges and opportunities being encountered at the grass-roots level.

Contact **Patrick Burkhart**, Assistant Director, Maricopa County Human Services Department (Phone: 602/506-4146 or e-mail: burkhartp@mail.maricopa.gov); or **Cynthia Spell Tweh**, Deputy Directory, Community and Economic Development Department, City of Phoenix (Phone: 602/262-6776 or e-mail: cynthia.spell.tweh@phoenix.gov) to schedule an appointment or tour.

MWC and PWC focus on increasing the wealth of individuals, businesses, and the community by identifying labor market needs to develop effective, innovative responses to meet the ever changing industry demands.

***Please visit the valley's comprehensive WIA One-Stop Career Centers.
We'd enjoy showing you what we do!***

**North Career Center**

9801 N. Seventh St.
Phoenix, AZ 85020
Tel: 602/861-0208

West Career Center

3406 N. 51st Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85031
Tel: 623/247-3304
TTY: 602/534-5500

South Career Center

4732 S. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85040
Tel: 623/534-4732

www.phoenix.gov/PHXWIN/